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DRAFT REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREPARATION OF PLANS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Rapporteur: Mr. Alexandre Demetropoulos (Greece)

1. The General Assembly, at its 1187th plenary meeting on 7 December 1962, adopted resolution 1775 (XVII), which reads as follows:

The General Assembly,

Noting that 10 December 1963 will be the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption and proclamation by the General Assembly of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations,

Taking into account the fact that, since the adoption of the Declaration, definite progress has been achieved in the affirmation and development of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in the attainment of independence by a number of countries whose people had been under colonial rule,

Hoping that all States will implement General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, so that the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will witness a decisive step forward in the liberation of all peoples,

Recognizing that, notwithstanding some progress, the situation regarding compliance with the recommendations made in the Declaration remains unsatisfactory in many parts of the world,

Recalling its resolution 217 D (III) of 10 December 1948, recommending Governments of Member States to show their adherence to Article 56 of the Charter of the United Nations by using every means within their power solemnly to publicize the text of the Declaration,

Bearing in mind its resolution 423 (V) of 4 December 1950, inviting all States and interested organizations to adopt 10 December of each year as Human Rights Day,

Bearing in mind that the application of suitable measures to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration might further promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, as enunciated in the Declaration,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Committee to prepare plans for the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including suggestions as to forms which the celebration might take and as to information materials which would be useful at the national and local levels, and to consult with the appropriate authorities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other specialized agencies concerned in the preparation of such plans, as well as with interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to present these plans to the Commission on Human Rights at its nineteenth session.

2. Pursuant to the resolution, the Secretary-General appointed a Special Committee, which was composed as follows:

Argentina:	Mr. Lucio Garcia del Solar Mr. Florencio Mendez
Canada:	Mr. William H. Barton Mr. Jacques Robichaud
Ceylon:	Prof. Gunapala P. Malalasekera Mr. H.O. Wijegoonawardena
Colombia:	Mr. Antonio Rayona
Costa Rica:	Mr. Fernando Volio Jimenez
Ecuador:	Mr. Hugo Jativa
France:	Mr. Jean Marcel Bouquin
Greece:	Mr. Alexandre Demetropoulos
Guinea:	Mr. Achkar Marof
Iran:	Mr. Mohied Din Nabavi

Italy:	Mr. Francesco Capotorti Mr. Giovanni Sculamiero
Japan:	Mr. Teruyuki Sawai
Jordan:	Mr. Abdul Monem Rifa'i
Mali:	Mr. Mamadou Traore
Mauritania:	Mr. Muhammad S. Luqman
Saudi Arabia:	Mr. Jamil M. Baroody
Thailand:	Mr. Somchai Anuman-Rajadhon Mr. Nissai Vejjajiva
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:	Mr. Yakov A. Ostrovski
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:	Mr. H.P.L. Attlee
United States of America:	Mrs. Marietta Tree Mr. John E. Means
Uruguay:	Mr. Carlos M. Velazquez Mr. Aureliano Aguirre Mr. Mateo Marques Sere

3. The Committee met at United Nations Headquarters on 17, 28 and 30 January, 18 and February 1963. At its first meeting Mrs. Marietta P. Tree was elected Chairman and Messrs. Lucio Garcia del Solar and Alexandre Demetropoulos were elected Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur respectively.

4. The following specialized agencies were represented at meetings of the Committee:

International Labour Organisation:	Mr. Henri Reymond
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization:	Mr. Asdrubal Salsamendi
World Health Organization:	Dr. Michael R. Sacks

Messrs. Jack Ling and Bernard Gerin represented the United Nations Children's Fund at meetings of the Committee.

5. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status were represented at various meetings of the Committee:

Category A	
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions:	Mr. Paul Barton
World Federation of United Nations Associations:	Mr. Hilary Barret-Brown
World Veteran Federation:	Mr. Gisbert Flanz
Category B	
Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations:	(Mr. Moses Moskowitz (Mr. Alexander E. Selzman (Mrs. Ethel Philips
Conference of Catholic Charities:	Mr. Louis Longarzo
International Catholic Press Union:	Rev. Hugh Morley
International Council of Women:	Mrs. Dewitt Stetten
International League for the Rights of Man:	Mr. Roger Baldwin Mrs. Dora D. Roitberg
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom:	Mrs. E. Picon Mrs. Adelaide N. Baker
Register	
International Humanist and Ethical Union:	Mrs. Walter M. Weis
International Federation of Free Journalists:	Mr. Vasil Germenji Mrs. H. Manc

6. Mr. John P. Humphrey, Director of the Division of Human Rights, and Mr. Gohl Obhrai, Director of the External Relations Division, Office of Public Information, represented the Secretary-General.

7. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1775 (XVII), specialized agencies and interested non-governmental organizations were consulted in the preparation of plans for the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary.

The Committee took into account views and suggestions presented by specialized agencies (ST/SG/AC.4/3 and 4 and ST/SG/AC.4/SR.3), by non-governmental organizations (ST/SG/AC.4/L.1) and by the Office of Public Information of the Secretariat (ST/SG/AC.4/L.2). These views and suggestions were summarized in document ST/SG/AC.4/L.3 and Rev.1.

8. The Committee was in general agreement that the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be as extensive as possible and that the United Nations, Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations should utilize their resources to mobilize public opinion on behalf of the observance of the anniversary. It was expressed in the Committee that the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration was not an end in itself but a means of stimulating interest in the Declaration and promoting the observance of human rights. It was agreed that the celebration of the anniversary would:

(a) Demonstrate to the world the great step forward which the adoption of the Declaration represented;

(b) Serve as a vivid illustration of the work accomplished by the United Nations in the field of human rights;

(c) Afford an opportunity for making better known the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration;

(d) Promote fuller implementation of the Universal Declaration.

9. The views expressed by the individual members of the Committee may be found in the summary records (ST/SG/AC.4/SR.1-). With regard to paragraph 8 (d) above, an extensive discussion took place in the Committee. Some delegates felt that one of the celebration's main objects should be to emphasize the work remaining to be done in the field of human rights and that in this respect particular stress should be laid on the issues of colonialism and racial discrimination, as these were the main obstacles to the full implementation of the Universal Declaration. Other delegates, while agreeing that these two issues were of great importance and must continue to be actively pursued in the United Nations, indicated that there are other issues, such as universal education, freedom from want, radio-active fall-out, etc., which have a bearing on specific articles of the Universal Declaration and which affect even

larger masses of people. To single out any particular issue would conceivably stimulate other Member States to emphasize those unrealized principles of the Universal Declaration which are of special concern to them. Thus the record of achievement in the field of human rights would be thrown out of focus and the whole celebration would be marred by acrimonious controversy. Some other delegates pointed out that although national independence is a prerequisite to the full enjoyment of human rights, nevertheless in some non-self-governing areas a standard of human rights has been achieved which compares favourably even with that of some independent countries.

10. At its third meeting the Committee appointed a Sub-Committee consisting of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Rapporteur and the representatives of France, Jordan, Mauritania, Thailand and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, to consider all the suggestions and recommendations presented to the Committee. The Sub-Committee met informally on 4 and 6 February 1963. On the basis of the discussion in the Sub-Committee, draft suggestions and recommendations concerning the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary were prepared.

11. At its fifth meeting, the Committee considered the draft suggestions and recommendations concerning the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary. The representative of the Secretary-General read a statement on the financial implications of certain suggestions and recommendations. Some representatives reserved the positions of their Governments regarding the statement.

12. At its sixth meeting the Committee approved the following suggestions and recommendations, addressed to (a) international organizations, (b) national Governments and (c) non-governmental organizations. It was understood that, when suggestions and recommendations were addressed to Governments, they would be implemented within the framework of national legislation and policy and according to available means. All the suggestions and recommendations made by the Committee were to be understood in the spirit of General Assembly resolution 1775 (XVII).

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

I. International Organizations

1. It is suggested that the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the directors-general of the specialized agencies issue special messages on the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, such messages to be widely disseminated by all communications media, including the satellites.

2. It is further suggested that the Secretary-General:

(a) Organize a concert to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration, the concert to be broadcast and televised to various parts of the world;

(b) Provide a plaque on which the Declaration is inscribed and which will be dedicated at Headquarters on 10 December 1963;

(c) Issue human rights stamps, first-day covers and special cancellations to mark the anniversary;

(d) Promote the widest and most intensive dissemination of the Declaration in as many languages as possible;

(e) Prepare and publish a history of the Universal Declaration and other international instruments on human rights, with special reference to progress already achieved, current endeavours and work remaining to be done, in the field of human rights; a new edition of the pamphlet, "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: A Standard of Achievement"; an up-to-date pamphlet on the work of the United Nations in the field of human rights; an up-to-date handbook on "Teaching Human Rights"; wall sheets and leaflets on the Declaration;

(f) Prepare a radio documentary script on the Declaration; encourage and assist broadcasting and television organizations, as appropriate, in the production of documentary or dramatic programmes relating to human rights;

(g) Design and make available to Member States a poster symbolizing the concept of human rights for national reproduction and distribution;

(h) Urge United Nations officers at Headquarters, in Information Centres and regional offices to give lectures and write articles on the Declaration, and to co-operate with information media and educational authorities in various countries in organizing the celebration of the anniversary;

(i) Request the distributors of United Nations publications to prepare a special display of relevant United Nations documents during the months of November and December 1963.

3. It is also suggested:

(a) That the specialized agencies organize commemorative ceremonies at their headquarters on the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration;

(b) That the specialized agencies devote special issues of their magazines or other special information programmes to the Declaration, particularly to those rights and freedoms within their purview, and, if possible, to hold round-table discussions;

(c) That UNESCO consider the possibility of promoting the performance or the exhibition, in connexion with the fifteenth anniversary, of notable musical, dramatic or artistic works which are illustrative of the themes of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(d) That UPU consider the possibility of requesting its Member States to issue human rights stamps, first-day covers and special cancellations on the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration, as UNESCO has already suggested in a circular letter to the postmasters-general of Member States.

II. National Governments

4. It is recommended:

(a) That Governments proclaim 10 December as Human Rights Day, and celebrate that day, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 423 (V);

(b) That Heads of State or of Government issue special messages on 10 December 1963, reaffirming faith in the dignity and worth of the human person and dedication to the implementation of the Universal Declaration;

(c) Governments consider entrusting the organization of the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary to an existing institution or an ad hoc committee designated or set up for this purpose;

(d) That Governments consider the proclamation on Human Rights Day of an amnesty covering political or other prisoners;

(e) That Governments consider the issuance of human rights stamps, first-day covers and special cancellations on Human Rights Day (see paragraph 3 (d) above).

5. Governments might also wish:

(a) To disseminate, or to co-operate with the United Nations in disseminating, the text of the Declaration in national or local languages (see paragraph 2 (d) above);

(b) To encourage, as appropriate, schools and universities to hold special meetings on Human Rights Day and to organize special courses or seminars on human rights;

(c) To encourage, as appropriate, national organizations (such as human rights committees, United Nations associations, UNESCO's national commissions, trade unions, religious organizations, academic or professional associations, youth organizations, etc.) to hold national or regional conferences with a view to discussing problems of human rights;

(d) To consider, or to encourage, the production of documentary or dramatic programmes (see paragraph 2 (f) above) relating to human rights, and the reading of the text of the Declaration, on radio or television;

(e) To promote the performance or the exhibition, in connexion with the fifteenth anniversary, of notable musical, dramatic or artistic works which are illustrative of the themes of human rights and fundamental freedoms (see paragraph 3 (c) above);

(f) To consider the possibility of granting special honours or awards in 1963 to persons who have made outstanding contributions to the promotion of human rights;

(g) To display on 10 December 1963 the United Nations flag on public buildings, which might be illuminated;

(h) To reproduce and distribute United Nations posters on the themes of human rights, including the posters selected by UNESCO at its international contest in 1962 (See paragraph 2 (g) above.);

(i) To reproduce and distribute the United Nations poster on the Declaration (see paragraph 2 (g) above).

III. Non-Governmental Organizations

6. It is suggested that non-governmental organizations, international or national:

(a) Adopt the Universal Declaration, or articles thereof, as appropriate, as the themes of their annual or special conferences in 1963;

(b) Organize commemorative ceremonies on the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration;

(c) Print and distribute the text of the Declaration, and prepare and publish pamphlets, leaflets and posters on the Declaration;

(d) Establish awards, if possible, to honour persons who have distinguished themselves in the field of human rights;

(e) Organize community projects, such as panel discussions on local problems of human rights, children's parades, display of the United Nations flag in school and business buildings, etc.;

(f) Encourage local communities to establish a list of questions with a view to investigating and sounding out public opinion as to the communities' effectiveness in promoting the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

7. It is further suggested:

(a) That special religious services be held on the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration;

(b) That radio and television networks carry special programmes, and newspapers publish editorials, on the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration, the text of the Declaration to be read or reprinted in whole or in part, if possible (see paragraph 5 (d) above); that information media organize public debates on great issues of freedom;

(c) That schools and universities hold special assemblies on 10 December 1963 and organize courses or seminars on human rights (see paragraph 5 (b) above);

(d) That research institutions and universities consider the publication of historic declarations of human rights, famous bills of human rights and great orations and speeches on human rights, with appropriate commentaries or annotations.